

# Learn About the

# FARO MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT

## What is Faro Mine?

Faro Mine was once the largest open pit lead-zinc mine in the world. Today it is one of the most complex abandoned mine clean-up projects in Canada.

The Faro Mine site is 25 sq. km – the same size as the City of Victoria, B.C.

It is located outside of the Town of Faro in Yukon, on the asserted traditional territory of the Kaska Nation and upstream from Selkirk First Nation.



70 million tonnes of tailings

320 million tonnes of waste rock

### 1969-1998

#### Thirty years of mining

Processing the minerals left behind waste rock and finely crushed particles (known as tailings) which have the potential to leach heavy metals and acid into the land and water.

That's enough mining waste to cover

70 FOOTBALL FIELDS,  
1 METER DEEP

### 1998

Faro Mine is abandoned when the owner declares bankruptcy.

### 2003

Devolution Transfer Agreement Takes Effect

Faro Mine identified as a shared responsibility between the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada.

## Selecting the Approach to Remediation

Many remediation options were developed and then reviewed at public workshops. Following that, numerous technical studies were completed to refine the remediation approach and then reviewed by independent experts.

### 2002-2009

#### WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO

1. Protect human health and safety.
2. Protect and, to the extent practicable, restore the environment including land, air, water, fish and wildlife.
3. Return the mine site to an acceptable state of use that reflects pre-mining land use where practicable.
4. Maximize local and Yukon socio-economic benefits.
5. Manage long-term site risk in a cost-effective manner.

#### HOW WE'RE GOING TO DO IT

- Upgrade dams to ensure tailings stay in place.
- Re-slope waste rock piles.
- Install engineered soil covers over tailings and waste rock.
- Upgrade stream diversions.
- Upgrade contaminated water collection/treatment systems.

## Developing the Remediation Plan

The project team is moving forward with the final design of a detailed remediation plan.

### 2009

Government of Yukon takes over responsibility for care and maintenance at the site.

### 2010

Grum sulphide cell constructed with engineered covers to protect environment from contaminants.

### 2011

Contractor hired to work on research to help with remediation plan design.

### 2013

Old water treatment plant closed due to health and safety concerns.

### 2015

New state-of-the-art water treatment plant in operation. Seepage collection system installed at the North Fork Rose Creek as a temporary measure to reduce zinc levels in water.

### 2016

Contractors hired to work on regulatory applications and design plans for urgent works and remediation.

## Next Steps for the Project

### 2017

Remediation plan design at 30% and detailed design work begins.

### 2018

Construction begins on North Fork Rose Creek diversion. Environmental assessment process begins.



### 2019

Construction begins on Down Valley hydraulic upgrade. Water licence application submitted.



### 2021

All regulatory authorizations issued. Remediation plan design complete. Construction manager hired for site remediation.

### 2022

Site remediation begins.

## Who's Involved in the Project?

#### Kaska Faro Secretariat

Established in 2016, the secretariat coordinates the Kaska Nation's participation and interests in the project.

#### Government of Yukon

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is leading the ongoing care and maintenance and managing the immediate remediation (urgent works) construction at the site.



#### Government of Canada

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada funds the project and is also leading the remediation plan design, regulatory process and site monitoring.

First Nations, Town of Faro and stakeholders are consulted on an ongoing basis to ensure the project incorporates their input. First Nations include the Kaska Nations (Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nation and Kaska Dena Council) and Selkirk First Nation.

For more information visit [faromine.ca](http://faromine.ca)

